

MINUTES OF BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES MEETING  
January 8, 2018

The Board of School Trustees met in regular session on Monday, January 8, 2018, at the Education Support Center. The following members were present: Mrs. Rebecca Gardenour, President; Ms. Lee Ann Wiseheart, Vice-President; Mrs. Donna Corbett, Secretary; Mrs. Jan Anderson, Member; Mr. K. Lee Cotner, Member; Mrs. Elizabeth Galligan, Member; and Mrs. Jenny Higbie, Member. Also present were the following administrators: Dr. Brad Snyder, Superintendent; and Mr. Bill Briscoe, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administration and Operations.

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mrs. Gardenour called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**B. RECITE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mrs. Gardenour asked everyone to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING NEW SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT:**

**Overview of Intent and Procedures of Hearing:**

Mrs. Gardenour explained that Indiana law requires that a public hearing be held on a proposed superintendent contract before the Board may vote on whether to approve the contract. The purpose of this hearing this evening is to allow the public the opportunity to provide input on the proposed contract for Dr. Brad Snyder. After the hearing this evening, the Board will consider the public's input and will vote on the proposed superintendent contract at a public Board meeting scheduled on January 29, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. We will now open up this hearing for public input.

**Comments from the Public:**

Mr. George Mouser, 6411 Phillip Schmidt Road, Floyds Knobs, shared objections to the contract being offered due to administration's past practices of financing and business practices.

Mr. Joseph Moore, Edwardsville Galena Road, voiced concerns about numerous violations with the recent referendum in which Dr. Snyder was heavily involved. Because of the irregularities with this, he is concerned with "handing over the reigns" to someone involved in that. He asked that if a contract is awarded, that an audit be done on the past expenditures.

Dr. Snyder shared that the School Corporation just recently received notification that the State Board of Accounts will be coming in within the next couple of weeks for the corporation's regular bi-annual audit.

Mrs. Gardenour thanked the public for their input this evening. As a reminder, the Board will consider the public's input and will vote on the proposed superintendent contract at a public Board meeting scheduled on January 29, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The public hearing was closed and Mrs. Gardenour moved forward with the next item.

**D. ANNUAL REORGANIZATION OF BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:**

**Consider 2018 Slate of Officers:**

Mrs. Gardenour asked for nominations for President of the Board of School Trustees for 2018. Mrs. Galligan nominated Mrs. Jenny Higbie as President of the Board of School Trustees for 2018. There were no additional nominations. Following a roll call vote, the nomination of Mrs. Jenny Higbie as President passed unanimously.

Dr. Snyder thanked Mrs. Gardenour for serving as President the past two years and for her years of service on the School Board. She is now in her 4th term and he looks forward to continuing to work with her to do great things for our school district and community.

Mrs. Higbie then asked for nominations for Vice-President of the Board of School Trustees for 2018. Mrs. Gardenour nominated Ms. Lee Ann Wiseheart as Vice-President of the Board of School Trustees for 2018. Mr. Cotner nominated Mrs. Elizabeth Galligan as Vice-President of the Board of School Trustees for 2018. There were no additional nominations. Mrs. Higbie opened the floor for discussion from Board members.

Mrs. Gardenour commented she is happy with the nomination of Mrs. Higbie as President and knows she will do a great job. However, with Mrs. Higbie and Mrs. Galligan both having one year experience on the Board, she feels it would behoove the Board to have a person in the role of Vice-President who has some experience and Ms. Wiseheart has seven and a half years experience on the Board. Ms. Wiseheart would be a good mentor to the President and answer any questions.

Mr. Cotner shared either person would be fine in the role; however, Mrs. Galligan has been on the Board for one year, but has “seen it all” and she is very active in the corporation and community. There is a real will, especially from the survey comments, for new leadership and he feels that’s what the Board needs to do.

Mrs. Anderson added she appreciates the amount of time that both Mrs. Galligan and Mrs. Higbie spend in the buildings and she supports both of them.

Ms. Wiseheart shared that the only responsibility of the President is to conduct the meetings, sign contracts, and some public speaking engagements. All Board members have the same power regardless of position. The Vice-President steps in if the President is absent and there is not anyone on the Board who could not do either of these positions.

Following the discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the nomination of Ms. Lee Ann Wiseheart as Vice-President of the Board of School Trustees for 2018. The nomination failed with 2 votes in favor and 5 votes against. Ms. Wiseheart and Mrs. Gardenour voted in favor and Mrs. Corbett, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Cotner, Mrs. Galligan, and Mrs. Higbie voted against.

A roll call vote was then taken on the nomination of Mrs. Elizabeth Galligan as Vice-President of the Board of School Trustees for 2018. The nomination passed with 5 votes in favor and 2 votes against. Mrs. Corbett, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Cotner, Mrs. Galligan, and Mrs. Higbie voted in favor and Ms. Wiseheart and Mrs. Gardenour voted against.

Mrs. Higbie then asked for nominations for Secretary of the Board of School Trustees for 2018. Mrs. Gardenour nominated Ms. Lee Ann Wiseheart for Secretary of the Board of School Trustees for 2018. Mrs. Higbie nominated Mr. Lee Cotner for Secretary of the Board of School Trustees for 2018. Mrs. Higbie opened the floor for discussion.

Mrs. Higbie commented it is wonderful to have so many leaders and strong persons on the Board and agrees with Ms. Wiseheart that anyone on the Board can serve in any capacity.

Following the discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the nomination of Ms. Lee Ann Wiseheart as Secretary of the Board of School Trustees for 2018. The nomination carried with four votes in favor and three votes against. Ms. Wiseheart, Mrs. Corbett, Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Gardenour voted in favor and Mr. Cotner, Mrs. Galligan, and Mrs. Higbie voted against.

**Consider Adoption of Reorganizational Meeting Resolution;**

The following resolution was presented for approval:

*“WHEREAS, Indiana Law and the Board’s Bylaws require that certain actions be taken at the Board’s organizational meeting; IT IS THEREFORE HEREBY RESOLVED as follows:*

1. *That the Board hereby designates Attachment A listing as the day, place, and time for regular meetings;*
2. *That the following persons are authorized to use the safe deposit box: Dr. Brad Snyder, Superintendent; Mr. Chris Street, Chief Business Officer; Mrs. Donna Taylor, Deputy Treasurer; and the Corporation Attorney;*
3. *That the bylaws and policies printed and codified in the comprehensive document entitled “Bylaws and Policies of the New Albany Floyd County Consolidated School Board” are hereby adopted;*
4. *That the President of the Board is authorized to appoint individual Board members to any necessary committees, or as representatives to various organizations;*
  - 4a. *That \_\_\_\_\_ Elizabeth Galligan \_\_\_\_\_ is appointed as School Board representative on the Floyd County Redevelopment Commission;*
  - 4b. *That \_\_\_\_\_ Jan Anderson \_\_\_\_\_ is appointed as School Board representative on the New Albany Redevelopment Commission;*
  - 4c. *That \_\_\_\_\_ Becky Gardenour \_\_\_\_\_ is appointed as School Board representative on the Georgetown Redevelopment Commission;*

5. *That the firm of Lewis & Kappes is appointed as this Board's legal counsel;*
6. *That Becky Gardenour is appointed as legislative liaison to the Indiana School Boards Association;*
7. *That Mr. Chris Street is appointed as this Corporation's Treasurer, Mrs. Donna Taylor as Deputy Treasurer, Mrs. Tammy Lamon as Deputy Treasurer of Payroll, and Ms. Pam Schindler as this Board's Recording Secretary."*

Upon motion by Mr. Cotner, second by Mrs. Gardenour, approval was given to the Reorganizational Meeting Resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously following a roll call vote. A copy of the signed resolution is attached and herewith becomes a permanent part of these minutes.

#### **E. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

The public was invited to address the Board on matters of educational importance. Oral complaints regarding specific students and/or personnel will not be heard. School employees are encouraged to contact their immediate supervisor to be heard on specific complaints relating to the terms and status of their employment prior to addressing the Board. Individuals were asked to confine their comments to no more than three minutes. There were sign up sheets near each entrance prior to the start of the meeting.

Mr. George Mouser, 6411 Phillip Schmidt Road, Floyds Knobs, commented we need smaller class sizes, more attention to individual students, and cooperation between schools rather than competition. We need to look at education rather than buildings - bricks and mortar.

Mr. Joseph Moore, Edwardsville-Galena Road, Georgetown, said he agrees that the priority should be students and teachers, not bricks and mortar. He asked for the name of the State Board of Accounts Auditor who will be coming in to perform the audit.

Mr. Dale Mann, 2635 Henriott Road, Georgetown, recommended the Board to conduct an independent audit, outside from the State Board of Accounts audit.

Mr. Brian Welden, shared concerns regarding school bus safety. He has shared his concerns with Dr. Snyder and Mr. Reid and they have agreed to meet with him, however, he feels the Board should be involved in the process of making drivers more aware of student safety when on the school bus.

#### **F. RECOGNITIONS:**

##### **Recognize Becky Clifton - Indiana Athletic Trainer Hall of Fame;**

Ms. Becky Clifton was recognized for her recent induction into the Indiana Athletic Trainer Hall of Fame. In 1991, she became only the third Athletic Trainer in Floyd Central High School's history. In the last 27 years, she has been a mainstay on the bench for all athletic teams, NJROTC, performing arts, clubs, etc. She has also served as an Athletic Trainer for the Indiana Boys Baseball, Football, and Softball teams. She has won numerous awards during her tenure and was named Indiana Athletic High School Trainer of the Year, received the NATA Athletic Trainer Service Award, and has published articles.

Ms. Clifton thanked the Board for the recognition and for giving her the opportunity to serve in this role at Floyd Central High School. She recognized and thanked Mr. Glen Snow for getting her involved in the athletic training field. The education of children is important and she feels we do a good job in the corporation of educating students and encouraged everyone to keep up the good work.

##### **Recognize Fairmont Elementary for Title I Distinguished School Award Recipient;**

Fairmont Elementary School's administrators, faculty, staff, students, and parents were recognized for receiving the Title I Distinguished School Award. The award is presented to schools which demonstrate strengths in team approaches to teaching and learning, focused professional development opportunities for staff, individualized programs for student success, and strong partnerships between the school, parents, and community. Fairmont Elementary is one of two schools in Indiana (out of the 2,000 elementary schools in the state) to receive this recognition. Fairmont will be honored as an invited presenter at future Indiana Department of Education events and will be recognized at the National Title I Conference.

Mrs. Gahan, Principal, thanked the School Board and administrators for their support. She recognized the phenomenal staff at Fairmont. They work tirelessly and relentlessly to prepare students for school and to be good citizens. She thanked her family for their support and help with events at Fairmont. This award is a testament to the great work that goes on here in New Albany-Floyd County Schools.

**Receive Information Regarding 1003g Focus/Priority Grant for Green Valley & S. E. Jones;**

Green Valley Elementary and S. Ellen Jones Elementary were each notified they have been awarded a School Improvement Grant by the Indiana Department of Education's Title I Office. There were approximately five awards given and our district received two of those. Funds are awarded to schools that show a commitment to provide adequate resources and support for students. Green Valley received a grant in the amount of \$1,172,495.00 and SEJ received \$1,469,510.00 which will be used over the next three years. The funds will be used for principal mentorships, a math coach, reading interventionist, mental health counselor, a school/home outreach person (social worker) at each building, professional development for teachers during the school year and the summer, a preschool, and extended day opportunities. Special thanks was given to everyone who was involved throughout this extensive process.

Dr. Swarens, Principal at S. Ellen Jones, and Dr. Kehrer, Principal at Green Valley, thanked everyone for their support. They are very excited about the opportunities they will be able to provide to their students and staff and look forward to seeing where the students and staff are at the end of the grant and the wonderful things that will happen from this.

Mr. Cotner said it was a privilege and honor to work with teams from both schools on this project. Ms. Wiseheart and Mrs. Gardenour also thanked Mr. Duffy for his leadership and for bringing this opportunity to our school corporation.

**G. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Approval of Minutes of the December 11, 2017, Regular Session; and December 21, 2017, Executive Session and Special Session;
- Approval of Claims;
- Approval of Staffing Report;
- Acceptance of Year-End Transfer of Appropriations;
- Approval of Mental Health Agency Contracts;
- Acceptance of Donations to New Albany High School, Hazelwood Middle School, Grant Line Elementary School, and Greenville Elementary School;
- Approval of Overnight Field Trip Requests from New Albany High School and Floyd Central High School.

Board members have received information regarding each item on the consent agenda; however, any member may request that any item be removed from the consent agenda and discussed separately. Mrs. Higbie asked that the staffing report be discussed and voted on separately. Mrs. Gardenour then made a motion to approve all remaining items on the consent agenda as presented and recommended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wiseheart and carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

- Approval of Minutes of the December 11, 2017, Regular Session; and December 21, 2017, Executive Session and Special Session as presented.
- Claims beginning #75047 through and including #75262 and payrolls of 12-15-17, 1-2-18, and 1-15-18 in the total amount of \$16,581,335.96 as presented.
- Year-End Transfer of Appropriations as presented.
- Mental Health Agency Contracts as presented.
- Donations to New Albany High School, Hazelwood Middle School, Grant Line Elementary School, and Greenville Elementary School as presented.
- Overnight Field Trip Requests from New Albany High School and Floyd Central High School as presented.

In regard to the staffing report, Ms. Wiseheart asked which schools the social worker is assigned to. Dr. Jensen said the person will be working from a middle school but will have four schools assigned to him. This is through the Lilly grant that was received in the fall of 2017. Also, Ms. Wiseheart asked for clarification on the request for reclassification of the Transportation Shop Supervisor position from a Wage Grade 26 to a Wage Grade 36. Mr. Street explained that due to the retirement of the former shop supervisor, the job description has been reworked and has been moved from an hourly position with overtime to a salaried position. Also, the person hired has industry-certified certifications so work that was

outsourced in the past can now be done in-house. They feel this is a win-win for the school corporation with the cost savings of not paying overtime and the cost savings of bringing work in-house. Following that discussion, Mr. Cotner made a motion to approve the staffing report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Galligan and carried unanimously.

#### **H. ACTION ITEMS:**

##### **Consider NAFC Public Library Board Appointment:**

Mrs. Heather Finn, Assistant Principal at Green Valley Elementary School, was recommended to serve as the School Board's appointment on the New Albany-Floyd County Public Library Board.

Upon motion by Mrs. Gardenour, second by Mrs. Corbett, approval was given to the appointment of Mrs. Heather Finn to the NAFC Public Library Board as recommended. The motion carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

##### **Consider Agreement with Floyd Central Tennis Club:**

Dr. Snyder asked that this item be tabled until a future meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Cotner, second by Mrs. Galligan, approval was given to table this item as recommended. Following a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

##### **Consider Proposal for 8th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip:**

Dr. Griffin shared that last year the trip cost \$720 for a three-night trip. A committee met to look at ways to reduce this cost to students and recommend the following:

- Agreement with Martin School Travel
- Cost is \$580 per student for a three-day, two-night trip and includes visits to Arlington Cemetery, Capitol Building, Embassy Row, Holocaust Museum, African-American History Museum, Naval Academy
- Online payment options directly to Martin School Travel

Parents meetings will be scheduled in February to explain the changes.

Upon motion by Mrs. Gardenour, second by Mrs. Anderson, approval was given to the 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip proposal with Martin School Travel as presented. The motion unanimously carried following a roll call vote.

#### **I. INFORMATION AND BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

##### **Receive Information from One Southern Indiana:**

Mrs. Wendy Dant-Chesser shared an update on the Region 10 SKILLUP! Grant from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. The grant provides funds for project-based learning and getting students involved in work careers geared toward manufacturing. The outcomes of the grant, which runs from January 2017 through December 2018 include:

- 50 seniors to enroll in Advanced Manufacturing courses with 90% completing MSSC-CPT
- 62 adults into MSSC-CPT coursework and the IMTA with 90% completing the program
- 100 individuals enrolled in the IMTA program and will complete training in-person or online
- 100 students (sophomores/juniors) in Conexus/HIRE program
- Teacher Externships: Greater Clark - 25; New Albany-Floyd County - 17; South Harrison - 13; and West Clark - 14
- Dollars Invested in Local School Corporations: Greater Clark - \$437,100; New Albany-Floyd County (Prosser) - \$291,400; South Harrison - \$145,700; and West Clark - \$145,000

An application was submitted in December 2017 for a SKILLUP! 3 Grant. The Region 10 submission, by One Southern Indiana, has chosen to focus on preparing its students through the academy model for the high demand fulfilling careers located here in our region. This addresses many points of Indiana's DOE Strategic Priority #1 - Student Learning. The grant request is for \$2,760,000 and divided equally over a 24-month time frame. Notification will be made the end of the month.

Mrs. Dant-Chesser also shared copies of the Hoosier Hot 50 Jobs in Region 10 and the Indiana Department of Education's 2018 Strategic Policy Priorities.

**Receive Information Regarding School Board Salaries Policy 0144.1:**

Mrs. Gardenour had asked for discussion regarding School Board salaries. Mr. Cotner commented that the Board is not that far removed from closing some schools, razing a school, and going years without raises. He feels, even though it appears our district is below the peer group, having discussion now is pre-mature. He moved that this discussion be tabled. Mrs. Galligan seconded the motion to table the discussion.

Mrs. Gardenour commented this would raise the Board members' pay from approximately \$2,800 a year to approximately \$3,900 a year. This is an increase of approximately \$8,600 a year for the school corporation.

With no further discussion, the motion to table the discussion regarding School Board salaries carried with four votes in favor and three votes against. Mrs. Corbett, Mr. Cotner, Mrs. Galligan, and Mrs. Higbie voted in favor and Ms. Wiseheart, Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Gardenour voted against.

**Marketing / Public Relations / Pro-Media / School Administration:**

Ms. Wiseheart asked for discussion on marketing. She said the corporation outspent the budget on marketing the past year and it appears there isn't much oversight when it comes to the marketing items we are doing as a school corporation. Although most of the services are important, the corporation doesn't "price out" the services. She would like the Board to have discussion on the marketing budget and at what point do we consider possibly hiring a marketing person.

Mrs. Corbett commented that she agrees the district needs more guidance; more goals and objectives that wrap around a marketing plan.

Dr. Snyder shared that he recently met with Amanda Millea from ProMedia and he invited her to share information with the Board regarding media analytics. It was decided this measurable data would be shared at the February Board meeting as a first step.

**Receive Update from Transportation Department:**

Mr. Reid thanked the school bus drivers for their great work everyday in getting the students to and from school safely, but especially this morning in not-so-favorable weather conditions. Mr. Reid shared information and data regarding seat belts on school buses. Currently, our two cruiser buses have the lap/shoulder belt. Last week, our district ordered 12 new school buses with seat belts as a pilot program. If the program works and helps with student discipline, all new buses ordered will have seat belts as we proceed. The buses with seat belts cost approximately \$9,500 more than a bus without. Also, districts who have implemented this have seen a decrease in student discipline on the bus.

**Receive Information Regarding the NAHS Referendum Project:**

Mr. Wiseheart said he hopes to have a February 1st bid opening for the NAHS referendum project with a bid award at the February 12th School Board meeting. George Link with VPS Architecture shared details and photos of the project. This project will include an addition to the media center, storage, "grab and go" kitchen/commons area, lobby space outside auditorium, and restroom renovations.

With no additional items for the regular agenda, Mrs. Higbie adjourned the regular session meeting at 8:00 p.m. and called the Board of Finance Meeting to order.

**BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING**

**Establishing Officers and Meeting Date:**

Mr. Street shared that our bylaws already establish the officers of the Board of Finance as the same as the regular school board officers and the meeting to be held in January. There is no recommendation to change this practice.

**Review and Acceptance of Investment Policy:**

Mr. Street said there are no recommended changes to the existing policy. It is currently in accordance with the State Statute.

**Review and Acceptance of Investment Report:**

Mr. Street said that during 2017 all corporation funds were invested in accordance with Board Policy 6144. The corporation is authorized to contract with a depository for the operation of a cash management system. Currently our

main operating account is with German American Bank. We also have deposits on hand with Mainsource Bank, Teachers Credit Union, and the State of Indiana authorized Trust Indiana.

Our interest earned for calendar year 2017 was \$321,944.58, which was an increase of 262% in interest revenue over 2016. The increase is a combination of higher balances and higher interest rates. With a continued rise in interest rates we expect 2018 revenue to slightly increase.

With no further business for the Board of Finance Meeting, the Board of Finance Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Schindler, Recording Secretary